

MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 17, 2014

Members in Attendance: Maureen St. Hilaire, Rachel Buonopane, Kerrie Fallon, Molly Flueckiger, Susan James, John Thompson, Heidi Hample

Members Absent: Michael Rademacher

Others Present: Jack Jones/ADA Coordinator, Beverly Bevilacqua/Advocate, Cynthia DeAngelis/Advocate

Announcements:

Cynthia DeAngelis introduced herself to the Commission. Cynthia has been recommended by the Town Manager for appointment to the Commission. At the meeting Cynthia said that her most recent job was as Executive Director of a Learning Prep School located in West Newton, Ma. Cynthia's resume shows that she has extensive experience working with special needs students.

Jack Jones said that a Master Plan Meeting was scheduled for January. Molly Flueckiger said that a Master Plan Draft Report has been available for review.

October 2014 Meeting Minutes:

After a spelling correction requested by Heidi Hample a motion was made by John Thompson to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

ADA Coordinator's Report

Jack Jones said that during December no inquiries were made for ADA assistance or advice.

Rachel Buonopane Concerns.

Rachel expressed concern regarding the misuse of the accessible parking space in front of Brighams Restaurant in Arlington Heights. Rachel wanted the Police Department to pay attention while on patrol to this accessible handicapped parking spot for autos idling in the accessible space. Cynthia DeAngelis suggested educating residents about this problem by doing an article in the Arlington Advocate. Kerrie Fallon suggested having a sign installed that would say no idling.

Rachel also expressed concern regarding two accessible spaces in front of Gold's Gym located in Arlington Heights. Rachel said that one space is designated as a fifteen minute time space, and the other has a bicycle rack located in the space. Jack Jones said that he will contact Gold's Gym about correcting these problems.

Annual Report

Jack said that this report is due by January 9, 2015.

Warrant Article

John Thompson said that the Commission may want to consider submitting a warrant article next year. Molly Flueckiger requested a list of warrant articles that were submitted by the Commission in The past.

True Story Theatre:

Susan James said that she had given a letter of support from the Commission for the theatre. Susan said that the theatre asks audience members to tell a story about themselves and based on the each story the theatre group acts out a brief performance. The theatre not only acts out physical disabilities but also mental health disabilities in order to raise people's conscious level about all types of disabilities.

New Business:

John Thompson and Heidi Hample presented an accessibility survey they completed about the Town Hall. Concerns expressed were the entrance ramp lacking a smooth safe surface and also the lack of signage. John Thompson also expressed concern about the brick walkway at the Town Hall Garden. John also expressed concerns regarding the Town Hall Chair Lifts.

A request was made for Jack Jones to provide a list of curb cut ramps that were installed this year. Jack said that he would provide a list at the January meeting.

Molly expressed concern that the last two months agenda's did not show continuity with the previous month. Molly also stated that the Institute for Human Center Design has provided an RFP where if a municipality were selected the Institute would provide an assessment of a building or facility. The RFP would need to be submitted no latter than December 31, 2014.

Bricks at Senior Center:

Jack Jones said that Carol Kowalski, Director of Planning & Community Development has requested feedback from the Commission pertaing to wire cut bricks recently installed on Maple Street. Molly Flueckiger stated that it may now be time to file a complaint regarding the lack of accessibility at the Senior Center entrance and adjacent sidewalk. Molly suggested that the Commission discuss this matter further at the January 2015 meeting.

Rachel Buonopane and Heidi Hample last meeting as Commissioners:

Commission members thanked both Heidi and Rachel for all their work to improve accessibility in Arlington while members of the Commission.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.